

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph on page 24 referring to Figure 2 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2 represents a schematic map of pTriEX-1.1 and derived plasmids pTriEX-Mod and pTriEX-Bsd are given as well as the detailed sequence of the basic core promoter (BCP) of the chicken  $\beta$ -actin gene (SEQ ID NO: 24). The modification of the BCP by insertion of a Not I site is shown (SEQ ID NO: 30). The whole map of circular pTriEX-1.1 is represented on Figure 8.

Please replace the paragraph on page 24 referring to Figure 3 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 3 presents the sequence of the forward primer A (SEQ ID NO: 1) used for PCR amplification and the primer binding site at the triple stranded region of the HBV genome (SEQ ID NOS: 31-33).

After page 34, before the claims, please insert the sequence listing included with this response and substitute this new sequence listing for any sequence listing previously provided.